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PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON

June 28, 2001
Reed L. Reingle *6/28/01*
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Gary J. Locke
Serial No. : 09/834,067
Filing Date : April 12, 2001
For : A MODULAR SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR CONTROLLING A MATERIAL
HANDLING SYSTEM
Group Art Unit : 2123
Examiner : Not Assigned
Attorney Docket No. : LM(F)-5728
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing one feature of a control system in accordance with the present invention; and--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 24,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing another feature of the
control system of Fig. 1.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3,
with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The material handling system may be increased or
decreased by adding or removing "Steel" modules.

With each addition or removal of a "Steel" module,
a corresponding control module, or "Copper"
module, may be added or removed. This
correspondence between the equipment components
and the control components allows for a well
defined method of expanding or reducing the
capacity of the material handling system (i.e.,
concurrent engineering).--

REMARKS

Examination of the above-identified application in view of the present preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.

All reference to omitted Fig. 3 has been deleted.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

As required, attached is a copy of the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers dated June 7, 2001.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this matter to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, has been amended as follows:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing one feature of a control system in accordance with the present invention; and

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 24, has been amended as follows:

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing another feature of the control system of Fig. 1; and

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 has been deleted.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 3, has been amended as follows:

The As viewed in Fig. 3, the material handling system may be increased or decreased by adding or removing "Steel" modules 700. With each addition or removal of a "Steel" module 700, a corresponding control module, or "Copper" module 500, may be added or removed. This correspondence between the equipment components and the control components allows for a well defined method of expanding or reducing the capacity of the material handling system (i.e., concurrent engineering).